Citation: Letter from Mayor Miller regarding police force, April 5, 1909. Clerk File 36601. Record Series 1802-01, Seattle Municipal Archives.

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The City of Seattle

Executive Department

John E Miller, MAYOR

JOHN SLATTERY SECY TO THE MAYOR

April 5,1909.

To The Honorable City Council, of The City of Seattle.

Gentlemen:

Some ten days, or two weeks ago, a Committee, consisting of Messrs J. E. Chilberg, A. B. Stewart and F. W. Baker, from the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, called upon me with reference to the City furnishing and paying for the necessary police force to be in attendance at and in the Exposition grounds during the Exposition, namely: from June First to October Fifteenth, 1909.

At that time, I referred the Committee to the Finance and Police Committees of your Honorable Body with whom, I am informed, they have had several conferences and perhaps the majority, if not every member of your Honorable Body has taken part, either officially, or un-officially to some extent in the discussion of the Committee's request.

The purpose of the Committee above named was to apply to the City for furnishing adequate and necessary police force to patrol the Exposition grounds, and to bear the expense thereof. The first intimation, or suggestion, that I have received that the City would be called upon for this service was the presence of the Committee at that date. The demands of the Exposition Management for City fire-men, fire apparatus of the City have been made and complied with months ago and no mention had heretofore been made that the City would likewise be called upon the police the grounds, bear the expense and assume the burden thereof.

The City of Scattle Executive Department John F. Miller, MAYOR



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I am informed that it had been the plans of the Exposition

Management to furnish sufficient corp of policemen to patrol the

grounds, and the City police department would only be called upon

to police the approaches, entrances, street car termini, etc.

but the desire of the Management now is that the City assume complete

charge.

I fail to see any legal or sufficient reson why it is not the City's duty to police the Exposition grounds, which is within the City limits, in the same manner that it does other portions of the City, having due regard for the welfare of every locality and the necessity for more officers in one locality than another.

At the present time, there are two hundred seventy four names on the police pay roll. Of this number, two hundred four are patrolmen, the remaining seventy including the officers, detectives, drivers, matron, guards, herders, etc. Section One, Article one of the City Charter provides "That the regular ample police force shall never exceed one officer to each one thousand of population." It is clear, therefore, that the charter limit in this respect has been reached. The same section and article of the City Charter provides: "That the Mayor may, when public safety requires it, in case of emergency, to be by him determined, appoint any number of emergency policemen, who shall discharge their duties and hold their positions at the pleasure of the Mayor, until the conclusion of the meeting of The City Council held next after such

The City of Seattle
Executive Department
John F. Miller, MAYOR

JOHN SLATTERY SECY TO THE MAYOR

Honorable City Council-page 3appointment, and no longer, subject to the consent of the Council."
It is equally clear that this latter provision of the Council must govern.

In the event the City wienes to comply with the Committee's your honorable body should make provision therefor. request. The intent of the framers of the Charter, I take it, is that the Mayor may, in case of emergency, employ emergency police officers to act temporarily but the permanent services of the emergency police officers is a matter for which provision must be made by the City Council. I, therefore, lay this matter before you at the threshold of the request of the Exposition Management in order that the matter may be thoroughly discussed, completely and finally determined before the date of the opening of the Exposition. This is a matter of extreme importance, not only to the Exposition Management, but to the City, as the welfare of both, for the time being, to a great measure depends upon the active, aggressive and adequate police surveilance.

I would be greatly pleased should your Honorable Body act upon this communication and the Committee's request as speedily as is convenient and compatible with the rules of your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor.